VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

President : I am sorry to say that the Surgeon-General is not well-to-day and she will be called in tomorrow. With the leave of the House, I will postpone discussion of that demand.

DEMAND XI—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai (*Director of Public Health*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,68,800 under Demand XI—Public Health and Sanitation.

Mr. T. W. U. Park (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I support the Demand and take this opportunity of emphasising again the necessity of regarding malaria control measure as a permanent feature of expenditure. I welcome the appointment of a highly trained malaria officer of wide experience.

From what I know of the measure already taken in Neyyattinkara Taluk I feel satisfied that it will not be long before the work has passed the experimental and exploratory stage. I understand that the Vector species of mosquito have already been identified and in this case the expansion of the work can go ahead so as to include ultimately all the tracts affected by malaria.

In this connection, as Government are aware, successful measures have already been adopted on many estates and I can safely promise the wholehearted co-operation of Estates with the Department of Public Health in the matter of malaria control.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Sir, I rise to speak on this Demand to emphasise the necessity for continuing the work in Quilon against the plague epidemic. It may be, Sir, that due to the very vigilant work done by this Department and due to the vigilant steps taken, the plague that broke out did not spread very much. But I do not know whether it will be safe to stop this work because we have not discovered any rat falls recently. I believe that the destruction of rats should continue and the staff appointed for that purpose should continue to do that work, and also continue their vigilance. It is just to emphasise this point I wanted to speak on this Demand.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai (*Kalkulam anā Vilavancode* cum *Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, in supporting this Demand I wish the Public Health Director to enlighten the House as to the nature of the control, remedial and relief measures that are being adopted by the department at present in the malaria affected regions in South Travancore.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, I rise to support this Demand. In doing so I wish to draw the attention of the House to a statement in the Administration Report for 1114. The Director of Public Health says that rural sanitation continued to receive the attention of this Department and that over 200 bore hole latrines have been sunk in various parts of the State. There is one part of the State where the bore hole latrine could not be constructed. It is because it is a waterlogged area. The Director of Public Health is travelling in different parts and occasionally he visits this area also but I wonder why the Director has not turned his attention to this problem though he has discovered for himself that great inconvenience is felt by the people of this part. The labourers live on the banks of canals and rivers and pollute the whole place. In addition, I have to bring to the notice of the House that contagious diseases break out in those areas and we find the people die without any proper attention. Under these circumstances, I desire to draw the attention of the Director of Public Health to this important aspect of the matter of constructing bore hole latrines in that area.

The second point to which I should draw attention of this House is about the appointment of midwives for starting health work. The Director says in his report that he was trying this experiment and it seems to me that that kind of work is very necessary in all the villages. I have been observing the work of the new Panchayats which the Government have introduced last year. I am afraid that if we are to wait for the starting of Panchayats to start this type of work it will take years to carry this out. I am also afraid that in some of our Municipalities, the Panchayats may not work properly. I understand that one of our District Health Officers, Dr. Tampi, has submitted a scheme to Government to appoint more midwives in all the villages of the State, and that where there are public institutions which undertake to support them Government should be willing to give a grant. I myself have put in a request to the Public Health Director that I would—meaning thereby one of my associations—undertake at least to finance about 13 nurses in the villages, provided Government would give a grant. I have not heard anything about that yet. I therefore submit that out of Rs. 70,000 that has been budgetted for rural reconstruction work, a part of that amount may be diverted to this very necessary, I may say absolutely necessary, work in this State.

There is a third thing which I want to advert to, and that is with regard to school children and their medical examination. I have spoken on this subject even last year. Examination of school children is valueless unless they are attended to in our hospitals. I was told that at the beginning of this scheme, there was a doctor

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in the hospital who was particularly set apart to attend school children at least once a week. That system I think is not prevailing at the present time. At least an attempt should be made to see that school children are attended to in hospitals. I have had occasion to see school children going on Saturdays to consult doctors; but I have not found even that during these months. I wish to submit that along with the money which the Government set apart for doctors for the purpose of examining children, a provision should be made in the Budget to give effect to it. I submit that there is no use doing this kind of work without a provision therefor in the Budget.

I have also mentioned last year about the payment of an allowance for school children who are suffering from defective vision due to want of spectacles. There are some poor children who cannot afford to buy spectacles but at the same time very anxious to prosecute their studies. Without proper eye-sight they could not do any work at all. Though money was, to my mind, budgetted for that purpose last year, as usual as in the case of other departments, that money lapsed. I am sorry to observe that it is very regrettable that heads of departments do not find their way to utilise the money budgetted for a very necessary and useful thing such as this. In spite of all these defects in the department, I still support the motion.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer*): May I know with regard to waterlogged areas, what is the member's suggestion for the construction of bore hole latrines?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I am sorry I am not an expert in that matter. A friend of mine who was an Engineer took me to the waterlogged areas in Ernaculam and showed me a new type of a bore hole latrine for water logged areas. He says that it could be built at an expense of Rs. 10. That friend who told me about this is one Mr. P. M. Moni who is working as Engineer in Ernaculam.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: In that case will not the night soil have contact with water? Or, will it float in water if such a latrine is constructed?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: It will be floating any way in water and the water is being utilised for another purpose.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: Does the member think that such an arrangement could be made in the waterlogged area where the water is used for drinking purposes as well?

Mr. T. W. U. Park: May I know from the member whether he has some idea of septic tanks in this connexion?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I was told that septic tanks would suit waterlogged areas because during that time the whole area is covered with water. There must be a certain height above water for septic tanks to work. I am sorry I have not specialised in this,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I point out for the information of the member that a septic tank constructed at a cost of Rs. 300 has proved successful in Kuttanad.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: It may be possible for Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar to have a septic tank at that cost. I do not think it is possible for common people to spend such a huge sum as Rs. 300 for the purpose.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Moovattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Sir, I also support the Demand. I wish to draw the attention of the Director of Public Health to the conditions obtaining in Parur Taluk in respect of fresh water supply. It appears he has not devoted sufficient attention to the needs of those parts of Travancore and in order to bring to his notice the necessity of relieving the scarcity of drinking water especially in the Vadakkekara Pakuthy in Parur, I have to offer a few words. This Vadakkekara Pakuthy has an area of more than 8 acres with a population of 29364. The whole of this Pakuthy is a continuous sheet of cocoanut farm. Not less than 25000 persons are engaged in coir manufacture. Being very poor, coir manufacture is conducted on a cottage scale. In point of population, this Pakuthy is the most thickly populated one having over 1/5 of the total population of the taluq. The total area of Parur is nearly 113 sq. miles with a population of 184331. Vadakkekara is surrounded on all sides by water and Arabian Sea is one of them. On all sides the water is brackish. This pakuthy is full of cocoanut plantations, and yields a large revenue to Government. Throughout the year excepting during the flood season when the whole pakuthy will be under water, the people there have to use only salt water for all their purposes. Although the flood season is a very disastrous one, it is a source of consolation to the people of that pakuthy, because they can drink pure water at least during that period. At my request the Public Health Director had been to that locality and visited various parts. He was also convinced of the urgent necessity of supplying pure water to the inhabitants of that locality. In this opinion the sinking of tube wells would be the proper remedy which will cost about 4000 rupees. The complaint was that there was not provision in the Budget for that. Government is not paying sufficient attention to the needs of this Taluk, it is practically neglected when compared with other parts of Travancore. But from the point of view of revenue to Government that part of the locality is not in any way inferior to the other parts. Under the circumstances I beg to submit, that the attention of Government should be particularly devoted to this urgent necessity of supplying good drinking water. The difficulties undergone by the people of that area are too great. No good drinking water is available anywhere there. It is high time that the Director finds out the necessary funds to relieve this distress. With these words I support the motion.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr.K. M. Kesavan : In rising to support this Demand I am constrained to say that the grant for this Department is too inadequate to carry out any useful work on public health activities. Therefore I urge Government to allot more money for carrying out useful public health services. Sir, I represent one of the most thickly populated constituencies, a sandy tract, where people are lacking in many items of public comforts. The coastal region to which I refer does not generally possess drinkable water. Provision has been made to sink one well in Thrikkunnapuzha. Sinking of one or even ten wells will go only a very little way to help the people. So, more money should be allowed under this head.

Mention was made here about anti-malarial measures. Though we do not hear much about malaria now, malaria may raise its head at any time and I need not lay any particular stress upon the baneful effects of malaria. Malaria, we know, has been one of the causes which contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire and even now malaria is one of the pests in India for the wiping out of which a large sum is devoted in Bengal. So, we should be always on the alert before malaria shows its head again. Rigorous measures must be adopted to get rid of it from our land.

We hear of certain Health Units having been started in this country. But I am constrained to point out that Health Units are needed in my constituency more than in any part of Travancore. Alleppey and Haripad are places notorious for the disease known as filariasis. Measures were adopted for the killing of mosquitoes which are supposed to be the cause of filariasis. The campaign has been going on and much money was spent on that account. I understand that we have been able to obtain some good results from such a campaign. So, a Public Health Unit may be started either in Alleppey, which is a swampy, thickly populated commercial centre or in Haripad which though not a commercial centre is also an equally swampy area.

The honourable member Mr. Kuruvilla drew the attention of the House to the appointment of midwives in rural areas. It is very highly necessary, particularly in rural areas far removed from dispensaries or hospitals where they do not easily get any medical aid. Hence some provision must be made to appoint midwives to satisfy the maternity wants of those parts. Midwives with some grants may be appointed in suitable places to look into this problem which the people of those parts stand in need of. With these words I support the Demand.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavaga*): Sir, I support the Demand. In doing so I wish to draw the attention of the Director of Public Health to the appalling death rate which is prevailing in this State. On going through the pages of the Administration Report of the Department for 1114, I find that the Director has made the observation.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja.]

> "That the infant mortality rate depends on a multitude of factors viz., regional, climatic, biologic, economic, social, and environmental. Since these factors are different for different localities, the causes which lead to the increase of infant mortality cannot be analysed in the absence of detailed data."

I wish to point out that it is high time that we make suitable provisions for collecting the necessary statistics and devise measures to bring down the death rate especially in the infant death rate. It is in the Municipal areas that we find the mortality rate higher compared to the rural parts. I think that the general health of the people also contributes to the high infant mortality rate and it is my view that suitable measures should be taken to improve the general standard of health of the people. We find that the people are not able to get as much nutritious food as is necessary. That is due to the poverty of the masses. I think the Government and also the public would do very much to raise the standard of the general health of the people. With these words I support the Demand.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ചില സംഗതികൾ പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്ത് ഡയറക്ടരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൻറെ തീരപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ പല ഭാഗത്തും കുഷ്ഠരോഗം ഉണ്ട്. ഒരുപക്ഷേ, അവിടെ സുലഭമായി നദീജലം കുളിക്കുവാനും മറ്റും ഇല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം ഈ രോഗം ഇങ്ങനെ വർദ്ധമാനമായ രീതിയിൽ അവിടെ കാണുന്നതു്. ചെറിയചെറിയ കുളങ്ങൾ മാത്രമേ അവിടെയുള്ളൂ. ആ കുളങ്ങളിൽ ഈ കുഷ്ഠരോഗികളും കുളിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കണം ഇതു വളരെ കുഷ്ഠരോഗികളെ ആ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ കാണുന്നതു്. ഓച്ചിറ എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു ധാരാളം കുഷ്ഠരോഗികളുണ്ട്. അവിടെ ഒരു ഭരദേവതാക്ഷേത്രമുണ്ട്. പണ്ടും ഹരിജനങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രവേശനമുള്ള ഒരു ക്ഷേത്രമാണതു്. ആ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിനു സമീപം ഒരു കുളമുണ്ട്. കുഷ്ഠരോഗികൾ ആ കുളത്തിൽ കുളിച്ചാൽ രോഗശമനമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നാണു് സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങൾ വിശ്വസിച്ചുപോരുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അനവധി കുഷ്ഠരോഗികൾ ആ കുളത്തിൽ കുളിക്കുന്നു. മറ്റു രോഗികളും രോഗശമനം ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിച്ചു ആ കുളത്തിൽ കുളിക്കാറുണ്ടു്. വാതരോഗികളും ഉദരരോഗികളുമെല്ലാം അവിടെ കുളിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കണം കരുനാഗപ്പള്ളി താലൂക്കിൽ ഇത്രയധികം കുഷ്ഠരോഗികളെ കാണുന്നതു. മാസത്തിൽ ആദ്യത്തെ ശനിയാഴ്ചയും അവസാനത്തെ ശനിയാഴ്ചയും അവിടെ ധാരാളം കുഷ്ഠരോഗികൾ വന്നു ആരാധിക്കാറുണ്ടു്. ആ കുളത്തിൽ ഇവർ കുളിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു ഹെൽത്ത് ഡയറക്ടർ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. എനിക്കുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശം ഇതാണു്. ആ കുളത്തിൽ കുളിച്ചാൽ രോഗശമനം വരുമെന്നുള്ള മതസംബന്ധമായ ഒരു വിശ്വാസമാണെല്ലോ. ആ വിശ്വാസ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ത്തിനു യാതൊരു ഭംഗവും വരാതെ ആ കുളത്തിൽ നിന്നു വെള്ളമെടുത്തു് കരയ്ക്കുവച്ചു കോരി കുളിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. കുളവും പരിസരങ്ങളും വൃത്തിയായി കെട്ടിസൂക്ഷിക്കുകയും വേണം.

ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ സാനിട്ടറി സബ്ബിം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാർ എന്നു ചുരുക്കം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുണ്ടു്. പല സ്ഥലത്തും കച്ചവടത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ആടുകളേയും മാടുകളേയും വധിക്കാറുണ്ടു്. ചെങ്ങന്നൂർ, പത്തനംതിട്ട മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ സുഖക്കേടുള്ള മൃഗങ്ങളെയാണു് സാധാരണയായി വധിക്കുന്നതു. വധിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന മൃഗങ്ങൾക്കു സുഖക്കേടുകളുണ്ടോയെന്നു ഇവർ ശരിയായി പരിശോധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ചെങ്ങന്നൂർ പബ്ലിക്കു് മാർക്കറ്റിനടുത്തു ഇപ്രകാരം കൊല്ലുന്ന കന്നുകാലികളുടെ എല്ലുകൾ ശേഖരിച്ചുകൂട്ടിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പട്ടികളും മറ്റും ഈ എല്ലുകളെയെടുത്തു അടുത്തുള്ള കിണറുകളിലും മറ്റും ഇടുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതുപോലെ ചങ്ങനാശേരിയിലും കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഏറ്റവും അനാരോഗ്യകരമായ ഈ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ തടയുന്നതിനായി സാനിട്ടറി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടറന്മാർ യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഞാൻ സാനിട്ടറി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരോടു ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ കേസു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു അദ്ദേഹം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അദ്ദേഹം ഏതു നിലയിലാണു് കേസെടുക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു സംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഈവക കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഡയറക്ടരുടെ നിഷ്കർഷമായ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പതിയണമെന്നപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapally, Kartikapally and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Sir, I rise to support the Demand. The observations of my honourable friend Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai confirm me in the faith that no remedial measures of the nature suggested by him are possible unless some legislation on the lines of the Public Health Act of Madras is initiated in this State. I would suggest to the Government that a Bill may be introduced on the lines of the Madras Public Health Act with the necessary modifications to suit local conditions. I am glad that many of the beneficient provisions of that enactment are included in the City Municipal Act which has recently become law. But that applies only to the city of Trivandrum and I suggest that a similar legislation may be made regarding rural areas also.

I fully endorse the remarks of my friend Mr. Kuruvilla regarding the necessity of paying more attention in the matter of medical instruction of school children. I find that the present system is not conducive to do much good. All the children of the State are not medically inspected. Some rotation is being followed and there is no agency to see that the defects noted by the medical officers are removed. That fact also makes it imperative that there must be some law by which if the parents of the children do not remove the defects pointed out by the medical officers, they may be punished. In the matter of glasses also that is a pathetic sight to see boys with defective eye-sight still struggling on in the classes. In the same

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

manner, greater attention has to be paid to the breath of school children. The mouth-hygiene is often neglected and it will do enormous mischief if it is not properly looked into especially when the boys are young.

I wish to bring to the attention of Government the regional claims especially of Kuttanad. If the honourable members of the House would go to Kuttanad, say this evening or tomorrow on my invitation or on the invitation of Mr. Ananthasiva Iyer, they will find that the remarks of the Dewan-President quoting the poet "Water, water every where but not a drop to drink" are only literally true in that part of the country. I had occasion to address the Government regarding the unsatisfactory condition of Kuttanad throughout the year. During the rainy season it is all flooded with dirty water and in the dry season you find indiscriminate throwing of all sorts of dirt into the water and even carcases of animals are thrown into the rivers. We have to satisfy ourselves by taking water from the rivers. There are only a very few wells and these are not successfully constructed in Kuttanad.

I am grateful to the Government for successfully opening the water works in Alleppey. I am confident that it will tend to remove the filariasis there. I wish it may be made possible for the Government to extend the devices for supplying good drinking water to the people of Kuttanad not necessarily by any costly schemes of water supply but by tube wells.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai anticipated me when he said about the condition of Karthikapally and Kayamkulam where we find a number of lepers. I am afraid, under the present law you cannot compulsorily segregate these lepers. That also is another argument in favour of the enactment of a law.

I pointed out that the extension of the Town Planning Act is quite essential especially in the Municipal and growing urban centres which develop into small towns. If the Town Planning Act is extended it will have a very good effect on the public health of those areas.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha cum Devicolam*) : സർ, ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനെ അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഒന്നരണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നു. ഒന്നാമതായി, ഡയറക്ടരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ശരിയായി പതിയുന്നില്ല. വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും മലമ്പനി പിടിപെട്ട് അനവധി ആളുകൾ വിഷമിക്കുകയും മരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. എൻെറ കാൺസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യുവൻസിയിൽപെട്ട മറയൂർ എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു പനിയുള്ളതായിട്ടോ ആ സ്ഥലം പനിയുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലമായിട്ടോ ഗവണ്മെൻറു കരുതിയിട്ടില്ല. ൧൯൩൯-ൽ, തന്നെ ആശുപത്രിയിൽ വന്ന രോഗികളിൽ ൪൭ ശതമാനവും ൧൯൩൬-ൽ, ൪൬ ശതമാനവും ൧൯൩൩-ൽ, ൩൬ ശതമാനവും ൧൯൩൪-ൽ, ൩൩ ശതമാനവും

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

അളുകൾം മലമ്പനി പിടിപെട്ടവരാണെന്നാണ് ഇന്ന് എന്റെ ചോദ്യത്തിന് നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്ന മറുപടിയിൽ കാണുന്നത്. അവിടെ മലമ്പനി ഇല്ലെന്നും, ഡയറക്ടർ അവിടെ പല പ്രാവശ്യവും പോയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽ തന്നെ ഒരു ചോദ്യത്തിന്റെ ഡയറക്ടർ മറുപടിതന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവിടെ അല്പസമയമെങ്കിലും വിശ്രമിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പനി ബാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. എന്നതന്നെയല്ല ഒരു ദിവസം അവിടെ താമസിച്ചാൽ കണിശമായിട്ടും പനി പിടിക്കുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യും. ഇതുപോലെ മലമ്പനി ശക്തിയായിട്ടുള്ള വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകളിലുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഡയറക്ടർ യാതൊരു അന്വേഷണവും ചെയ്യാത്തതിന്റെ കാരണം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

സർ, മി: കല്ലൂർ നാരായണപിള്ള പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതുപോലെ വടക്കൻതാലൂക്കുകളിൽ പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും കുഷ്ഠരോഗികളെ ധാരാളമായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിന് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കാത്തപക്ഷം ഈ രോഗം രാജ്യമൊട്ടുക്ക് വ്യാപിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

കോട്ടയം പട്ടണത്തിൽ കൊതുകിന്റെ ശല്യം വളരെയുണ്ട്. ഈ പട്ടണം സമതലമായ സ്ഥലത്തു സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അവിടെ കൊതുകിന്റെ ശല്യം മാറുന്നതിന് വളരെ എളുപ്പമുണ്ട്. നഗരസഭയിൽ പോയി എന്തെങ്കിലും ആവശ്യത്തിനായി താമസിക്കാൻപോലും നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഇക്കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഡയറക്ടരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ പ്രത്യേകം പതിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: സാംക്രമിക രോഗികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഓരോ ആശുപത്രികളിലേയും ഡാക്ടറന്മാർ ആഴ്ചതോറും ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്ത് ഡയറക്ടർക്ക അയക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ഏർപ്പാട ചെയ്കയാണെങ്കിൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: അങ്ങനെ പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതിന ഏർപ്പാട ചെയ്യുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (*Nominated*): സർ, എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മി: തമ്പി, കുട്ടനാടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞ എല്ലാ സംഗതികളിലും എനിക്ക് അനുകൂലങ്ങളായ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളാണുള്ളത്. അവിടെ കുടിക്കുന്നതിന നല്ല വെള്ളമില്ല. ആ സ്ഥിതി മാറുന്നതിനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും സ്വീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. ഈ രണ്ടു സംഗതികളാണ് പ്രധാന വൈഷമ്യങ്ങളായിത്തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നത്. കുടിക്കുന്നതിന മലിനജലമല്ലാതെ കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. മന്ത്രിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിലും മലമ്പനിയുടെ കാര്യത്തിലും പെട്ടന്ന് അതിന്റെ പ്രത്യക്ഷമായ ഫലം തെളിഞ്ഞുകാണാം. കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ ദുഷിച്ച വെള്ളം ഉപയോഗിച്ചാലുള്ള ദോഷമെന്താണെന്നും, ഈ അഴുക്കുവെള്ളം ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പല

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan.]

ആളുകൾക്കും പല സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിലും കാളറാ പിടിപെടുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും ഉള്ളതു് പലക്കും അനുഭവമുള്ള സംഗതികളാണു്. കുട്ടനാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള അനാരോഗ്യസ്ഥിതിക്കു് പ്രധാനമായ കാരണം ശുദ്ധജലത്തിന്റെ അഭാവമാണെന്നു് പ്രത്യക്ഷത്തിൽതന്നെ തെളിയുന്നതാണു്. പ്രഥമദൃഷ്ടിക്കു് ഗോചരമല്ലെന്നുള്ള കാരണത്താൽ അവഗണിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണെന്നും, ഗൗരവമേറിയ സംഗതിയാണു് ഇതെന്നും, ഹെൽത്തു ഡയറക്ടർ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. ആലപ്പുഴ പട്ടണത്തിൽനിന്നോ മറ്റു സമീപസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നോ വേണം അവിടെ ശുദ്ധജലം കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതു്. എന്നാൽ അവിടങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും മുടക്കംകൂടാതെയിട്ടും മറ്റും ശുദ്ധജലം വരുത്തുക എന്നതു് എപ്പോഴും പ്രായോഗക്ഷമമായിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യമല്ല. ആലപ്പുഴ പട്ടണത്തിലുള്ളതുപോലെ ഗംഭീരമായ തോതിൽ ഒരു ശുദ്ധജലവിതരണപദ്ധതി ആവശ്യമാണെന്നു കുട്ടനാട്ടുകാർക്കു അപേക്ഷയില്ല. ഏതു തരത്തിലെങ്കിലും അവിടെയുള്ള കുളങ്ങളും നന്നാക്കുന്നതിനും മറ്റും പ്രായോഗികമായിട്ടുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ഹെൽത്തു ഡയറക്ടരുടെ പ്രത്യേക മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ അതു് സ്വീകരിച്ചു് ആ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽകൂടി വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ സന്മനസ്സും ശക്തിയുമുള്ള പല ആളുകളും അവിടെയുണ്ടു്. ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളും മനസ്സിലാക്കി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു് അധികാരികളും വല്ലപ്പോഴും ആ വഴിക്കു സഞ്ചരിച്ചതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം മതിയാകയില്ല. അവിടെത്തന്നെ ഒരു ഹെൽത്തു് യൂണിറ്റു് സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധ ചെലുത്തണമെന്നാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്.

പകർച്ചവ്യാധികളുടെ നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗമായി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ചെയ്യാവുന്നതു് രോഗബാധിതരെ സമീപിക്കാതിരിക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ബസ്സു സ്റ്റാൻറുകളിലും റയിൽവേ സ്റ്റേഷനുകളിലും ചെന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള രോഗികൾ വന്നു് വസ്ത്രങ്ങളിൽകൂടി പിടിച്ചാണു് ഭിക്ഷ യാചിക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ അവരെ തള്ളിമാറ്റാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. വസ്ത്രങ്ങളിൽ പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു യജമാനനേ! നാലു കാശു് തന്നിട്ടു പോകണം; എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ എന്തുചെയ്യും. രോഗികളെ സമീപിക്കാതെ കഴിക്കാം. പക്ഷെ രോഗികൾ ജനങ്ങളെ സമീപിക്കുന്നതിനെ അവർക്കു തടയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇതിനു പരിഹാരം ചെയ്യാതിരുന്നാൽ രാജ്യത്തിനു വലിയ വിപത്തുണ്ടായിത്തീരുന്നതാണു്. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള ചെറിയചെറിയ സംഗതികൾ അധികാരികളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപെടണമെന്നുവരികിൽ അടുത്തടുത്തു് ഹെൽത്തുയൂണിറ്റുകൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു മുമതലപ്പെട്ടവർ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുകയാണു് വേണ്ടതു്. കുട്ടനാടിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണെങ്കിൽ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ മുമതലപ്പെട്ട ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു വളരെ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ അവിടെ ഒരു ഹെൽത്തു യൂണിറ്റു് സ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്നു് എനിക്കപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Sir, I also support the Demand. In doing so, I wish to draw the pointed attention of Government and the Department for establishing more Health Units in the State. Now, there are a few Health Units and they are not enough. As far as possible Health Units should be established in all rural centres.

I wish also to draw the attention of Government and the department about another point. That is, in some of the conservancy towns, Government have granted street lamps and they are lighted by the Department. I propose that, if possible, electric lights should be introduced in those places wherever electricity can be obtained.

My honourable friend Mr. Godavarma Raja stated that the general health of the people of the State is degenerating. I also endorse this view. It is the duty of the Public Health Department to find out ways and means to cope with this problem. Year by year health of our people, is deteriorating, and my submission is that it is on account of malnutrition. The Public Health Department should conduct experiments on some indigenous articles of food, such as fruits and grains. There are very cheap varieties of fruits available in our State. It is very difficult for the people to get fruits from Europe or Australia for very dear prices. On the other hand, we have got in our State, several varieties of fruits. My request is that the Department should make experiments on these and they must declare the results and make the people understand their utilities. Now, the Health Department is conducting propaganda only in respect of diseases. I am told that our ordinary cashew fruit contains all kinds of vitamins ; and they are very cheap also. They are practically now thrown out as waste. Some experts suggest that we must cultivate soya beans, tomato etc. We also made attemps to cultivate these articles of food, but my impression is that our attempts have not succeeded. This is more so, in regard to the cultivation of soya beans. I have myself made experiments and have found that it is very difficult to produce soya beans on a large scale on account of climatic or other reasons. Moreover, it is not palatable also. Therefore some indigenous food articles should be selected and after the experimentation, their food value should be published, and they may be recommended to the increasing use of the people.

I also endorse the views expressed by some honourable members about the contagious diseases. In the towns and villages, lepers and persons suffering from other contagious diseases, are indiscriminately assembling. Their contact is the cause of the appalling increase of this class of people. They are really a menace to the health of the public. I request the Director of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai.]

Public Health to be more alive to this problem and effectively checkmate the growth of this malady. With these words I support the motion.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar (*Vaikom Kottayam and Changanacherry cum Peermade*): Sir, I support the demand. In doing so, I agree with the honourable members who spoke before me in pointing out the urgent necessity for a greater attention being bestowed by the Department in the rural areas, particularly the water-logged areas of Kuttanad.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Kuttanad only was mentioned by the speakers as water-logged areas. There are water-logged areas in other taluks also, for instance, in Tiruvalla and Haripad. I want to draw the attention of the honourable member that the water-logged areas comprise of parts of Ambalapuzha as well.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I began by referring to the rural areas of the State but particularly to the water-logged area of Kuttanad as an illustration.

Mr. Kallar Narayana Pillai: കുട്ടനാട് എന്ന പേരുണ്ടായത് മുമ്പന്റെ പ്രയോഗംകൊണ്ട് മുമ്പനാട് കുട്ടനാടായതല്ലേ! അതോ വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനിന്നതുകൊണ്ട് കുട്ടനാടായതാണോ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I do not know the derivation. Sir, a great deal could be done usefully by the departmental officers by making periodical inspections and visits and also by educating the people by lectures on health, sanitation, food value of nutrition and on the ways and means to prevent the spreading of epidemics. Especially in the harvest seasons, when there is a large number of the floating population inhabiting the bunds of the backwater it would be very useful if the officers of the Department would tour round the area and inspect the sanitary conditions in which the poor labourers are living.

Another point which I wish to emphasise is the necessity to carry on the anti-mosquito campaign throughout the State. The trouble from mosquitoes is almost felt everywhere. Perhaps Trivandrum is free from that trouble.

Mr. James Fletcher: Not free.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Trivandrum is not free.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I find the difference more by comparison. In a fairly healthy town like Kottayam where there is good drainage on account of the natural lay of the land, practically, throughout the year, there is considerable trouble from mosquitoes. In fact, the whole people of Kottayam are really passing several sleepless nights. The trouble can be prevented by a good deal of work if the Municipality could do that. I find that there is some provision in the Municipal budget. But the point

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

remains, that very little is being done by that body and what little they have done is quite inadequate. Particularly this year throughout all times and every day the people of Kottayam must have felt the trouble. If it is so even in a place like Kottayam, I belive it is much worse in other areas.

The third point is about the troubles caused by malaria. I lay special emphasis on the troubles caused by this disease in the estate regions of Peermade particularly in the months of March, April and May. With the first shower of the rains, fever breaks out and a large number of the population is affected. Every year, every estate spends large amounts on quinine. Quinine may check the disease for the time being. But it is not a specific for permanent cure. The Department should find out methods to eradicate the disease permanently from those regions. I have also to complain that no anti-malaria campaigns were conducted in these estates.

The fourth point is about plague. We all know that plague enters into Travancore through two doors. One on the north *i. e.*, from Mattancherry and the other at the north-eastern frontier, from the adjacent British Indian areas of Cumbum and Goodalloor. There are rat falls found now and then in some of the estates. There was a suspected outburst of plague in the area near Kumili 3 years back. On account of the vigilance of the Department and the active co-operation of people of the estates, the spread of the malady was checked in time. Sir, there is one grievance with regard to the several estates. That is, the expenses incurred for all these by the Department are being recovered from the estates. Public Health is a matter of general importance and as such it is to be attended to by Government. So long as these estates pay substantial taxes to Government, they ought to meet the expenses which they have incurred and which they will have to incur in future. These estates observe the Plague Rules and report whenever rat falls occur. They provide for segregation camps when necessary, and other facilities and conveniences for officers and their staff. To extract from them the expenses incurred for these preventive measures is rather hard. I request Government to stop such realisations. With these words I support the demand.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, of all the diseases prevalent in Travancore, diseases like malaria, filaria, typhoid and tuberculosis take away a very heavy toll of human life from our State, and it is for the Director of Public Health to see that adequate preventive measures are taken against these diseases. Almost in many parts of Travancore we have got malaria prevalent. This is more so especially in the taluks of Neyyattinkara, Vilavancode and Nedumangad. Even now in those taluks the disease persists in a most virulent form. When the disease subsides in certain places it springs up in other places. Unfortunately the Health Unit at Neyyattinkara is not able to handle the problem adequately in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. James Fletcher.]

rural parts because it is established in the centre of the town where the people are more healthy. My point is that the Unit must have its headquarters in a place where malaria is most prevalent *i. e.*, in the rural parts. But now they go to the affected parts once in a way. This does not benefit the rural population much. Therefore, my request is that the doctors and other officers who are employed there for giving the necessary medicine and necessary advice on these matters should live among the people and be always prepared to find out the causes of this disease and help them by knowing their real difficulties. There is no good in keeping themselves comfortably aloof in healthy places. I, therefore, suggest that more vigorous campaigns should be carried on to combat this fell disease. Unless and until Travancore can get rid of malaria we cannot pride ourselves that we are living in a model State. It is quite possible that this disease can be eradicated from the land and for this purpose, ample funds which the Government provide annually under the head 'Public Health' should be utilised to the fullest advantage.

Another point I would suggest is the supply of good drinking water in all places. Good water is essential for the health and strength of the people. Unless and until we give good drinking water to all people, we cannot say with certainty that they will not be attacked by any contagious disease. (Bell).

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil*): Sir I support this Demand. In doing so, I wish to express the gratitude of the people of the taluks of Neyyattinkara, Nedumangad and even Trivandrum, which are affected by malaria, to the Government and the energetic Director of Public Health, for the very earnest endeavours that they have taken for quenching the fire-the terrible disease. Sir, I moved about this time last year an adjournment motion on this subject and pointed out the havoc and misery that have been caused in those taluks on account of malaria. I am glad to note that immediate measures were taken in co-operation with the Medical Department towards controlling this disease and that several dispensaries were opened. All these and many other things necessary to check the spreading of the disease were attended to by the Government with the result that I find now that the disease has temporarily abated. I then even pointed out the danger of the disease coming to the town of Trivandrum, but it was replied that this town need not entertain any fears on that score. Subsequently, I have found that some peoples in this place also have been affected by this disease. However, I am glad to find that there is not much danger now. I am also glad to note that Government had taken some measures to give relief to those affected from the after-effects of the disease. I suggest also that Government should help the poor people who are rendered

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

helpless in regard to their needs of food. But unfortunately, I find that nothing has been done in that direction, no doubt, due to the lack of initiation from non-officials. But in such matters the initiation must be taken by the Government and then only people will co-operate and do the needful in the matter.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, I am thankful to the honourable member Mr. Park for the lead that he has taken in controlling malaria in the estates and also for the co-operation that he has promised in future for a joint control measure. It is true that the Department is carrying on control measures in Neyyattinkara and, to a certain extent, it has been found successful also. In Peermade and other places where there are estates owned by Europeans, a certain amount of malarial control is being done at present; but it is highly necessary that all these activities should be co-ordinated and put under the common control and advice of a Malaria Expert.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether the estate people have offered anything by way of contribution to the relief?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : No, Sir; they are minding their own business in the estates.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : May I know whether malaria is epidemic or endemic in those places?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : It was endemic till 1936 but subsequently it turned into an epidemic form. I promise that the department will place all its resources and advice of the Malaria Control Officer at the disposal of the estate authorities whenever these control measures are going to be taken by them in future also.

The honourable member for Quilon Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai apprehends that the plague control work in the Quilon district will be stopped in the near future. Sir, the municipal authorities, who ought to be more anxious in respect of control measures, I am sorry to say, have recommended that the work should be stopped by the end of this year. I have not made any recommendation to Government as I feared that the idea of discontinuing plague work would be suicidal to the health interests of the municipality.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai : Is it not because they were not able to find funds required by the Public Health Department, that the municipal authorities recommended for the stopping of the control work?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, the Public Health Department co operates with the municipalities which are supposed to be self-governing institutions and they share only a percentage of the expense that is likely to be incurred in such matters.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai : May I know whether the Public Health Director is aware that the municipality of Quilon has suffered heavily in their income on account of the introduction of the Transport system into the town?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: Sir, the department is not aware of such a loss.

The Honourable member for Neyyattinkara, Mr. Krishna Pillai and Mr. Sankara Menon said that malaria control measures have again to be continued in the taluks of Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara. I am glad to say that large amounts are budgeted for work next year also in those affected areas. The epidemic this year was comparatively not so severe as it was during the last two years. Therefore, the suggestion of the honourable member to extend relief measures is not acceptable to the Department at present. When conditions reveal that such relief is necessary, suitable recommendations will be made to the Government.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: May I know what arrangements will be made for the food supply to the poor people for whom I have spoken?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: Yes, I mentioned about that.

In respect of the rural sanitation in Kuttanad and other water-logged areas, I have to submit that the problem is a difficult one. It is true that there is scarcity of water and Government have been trying to procure good water by installing certain artesian wells. Machines have been obtained for that purpose but the Department was not able to construct the wells till now.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Is it possible to construct artesian wells in required areas?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: Sir the honourable member will be satisfied to see that the Government have constructed two artesian wells at a cost of rupees five thousand each, one at Thrikunnapuzhai and the other at Thottapalli. Such wells cannot be provided immediately in all areas simultaneously; but as occasion demands and when funds become available, artesian wells can be provided.

With regard to latrines in Kuttanad, that is also an equally difficult problem. Sir, in Philippines which is a place somewhat similar to Kuttanad, bored-hole latrines have been constructed. In these areas the level of the surface water is very high and a platform five or six feet has to be raised from the ground on which seats have generally to be put. These platforms are erected not by the side of the rivers or canals, but a suitable place will be selected in the garden which will have no communication with the sources of water supplies. This system is required in Kuttanad. But the necessity for laterite stones to put up such latrines, involves a comparatively higher expenditure for latrine construction in Kuttanad.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether human modesty would not demand less conspicuous a place than a platform which is six feet high. (Laughter.)

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : When the water is on the same level as the garden, it is impossible to build such a platform.

President : Honourable member has five minutes more.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : Sir, the platform will be enclosed (Laughter). I think when people are making arrangements for toilet, it will include necessarily some amount of secrecy.

President : Yes, the honourable member will proceed.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: With regard to the appointment of midwives in each village, I may submit that such an arrangement is under an experimental stage at present. The Government have been pleased to appoint ten midwives, five to certain remote villages in North Travancore and the remaining in South Travancore. But on a minute enquiry, it was found that institutions or organisations which had promised to help and to meet a certain percentage of the expense, were not forthcoming with their co-operation when this problem was put into concrete form. Every one of them then slowly withdrew from their position.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir, may I say that those who submitted the promises, only said that if a definite proportion is fixed, they would be able to give that share of the expense. To my knowledge, those who have promised never said that they would not be giving the amount; only they required a proportion to be fixed.

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai: I am also aware of the organisations in Kottayam and Mallapalli who promised to give a portion of the amount necessary.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Is it for public latrines or for private latrines that the people agreed to contribute ?

Dr. M. K. Gopala Pillai : It is not for latrines but it is for the provision of midwives.

There is a midwife at Prakkad who is reported to be doing good work.

The honourable member for Kottayam is not .....(bell.)

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 2,68,800 under Demand XI—Public Health and Sanitation was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND NO. XII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

Mr. M. S. Doraswami Aiyangar *(Chief Engineer)* **:** Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 64,50,527 under Demand XII—Public Works Department, including Water Works and Drainage.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir, I rise to support the demand. In doing so, I have again to thank the Government for the excellent arrangement by which the representatives

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly